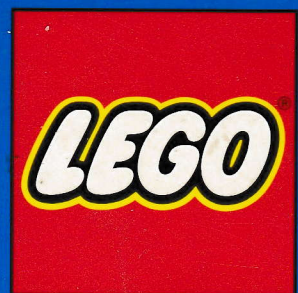


The Building of America





The first light of liberty

Back in 1775, the American states were still just colonies of the British empire, and Americans were ruled by the English king.

But people were growing angry about the unfair taxes they had to pay England, and about all the British soldiers living among them. They were beginning to dream of making America a nation of their own.

Many were prepared to fight for their liberty. In the colony of Massachusetts, American patriots began collecting war supplies in the little town of Concord. When the British found out about this, they sent out hundreds of soldiers to capture the American leaders and destroy their supplies.

But the Americans were ready for them.

"One if by land, two if by sea"

It was just before midnight on April 18, 1775. Way up in the steeple of the Old North Church in Boston, American patriots spotted the British soldiers sneaking into Boston harbor under cover of darkness.

Now the patriots could give the signal. They put two lanterns in the church steeple to warn their friends that the soldiers were arriving in boats.

A daring midnight ride

When Paul Revere saw the signal, he jumped on his horse and started riding toward Concord to spread the alarm. All along the way he woke up households with the cry, "The Redcoats are coming!" (The British soldiers were called Redcoats because of their red uniforms.)

As Paul Revere shouted his warnings, it took only minutes for men to spring from their beds and prepare for a fight. (For that reason, they were called Minutemen.)

When the Redcoats got to the town of Lexington early the next morning, they found 70 brave Minutemen lined up to try to stop them. The first shots were fired ("the shots that were heard around the world"), and 18 Americans went down. The British moved on toward Concord, but by now there were angry patriots waiting for them and they had to turn back to Boston.

The patriots' supplies in Concord had been saved, and the American Revolution had begun.

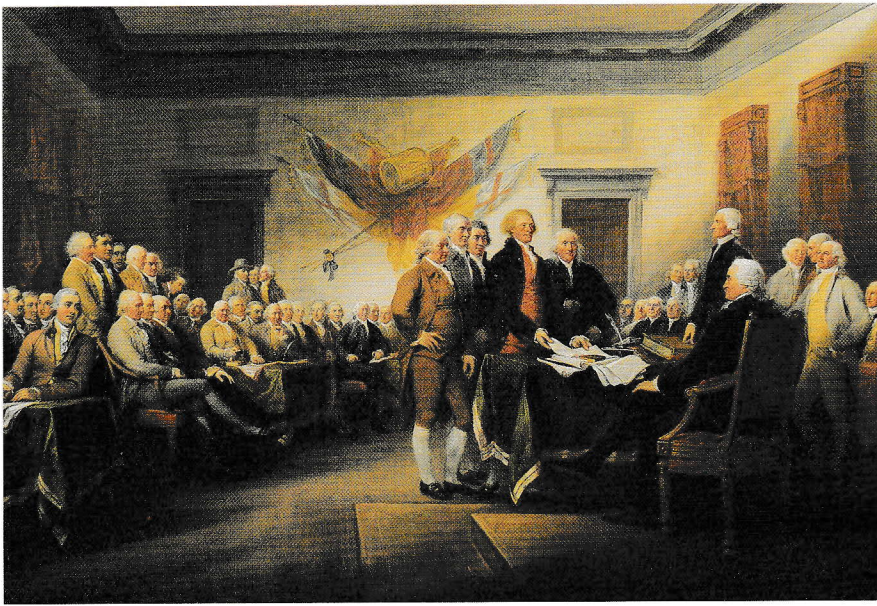
On April 19, 1775, the Battles of Lexington and Concord began the American War for Independence.



*"Listen, my children, and you shall
hear of the midnight ride of Paul
Revere . . ."*

*From the steeple of Boston's Old North
Church, two lanterns gave the first warning
that the British were coming. (Can you
guess how many LEGO® bricks went into
the building of this Old North Church
model? Find out by turning to page 11.)*





This famous painting shows the signing of the Declaration of Independence. (Can you spot Thomas Jefferson, the man who wrote the document? And Benjamin Franklin, who helped him with it? Answers on page 11.)

Let freedom ring

Shortly after the Battles of Lexington and Concord, each of the 13 American colonies sent representatives to meet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The meeting was known as the Second Continental Congress.

One of the first acts of this Congress was to organize an Army, and to name George Washington of Virginia as its Commander in Chief.

For many months, the representatives argued over whether America should remain British or whether it should break away and become a new nation.

They made one last try to make peace with England. But when the King answered by sending more soldiers, they knew it was time to begin building their new country.

Independence Day

On July 4, 1776, the United States was born as a free nation. It was on that day that Congress issued the famous Declaration of Independence.

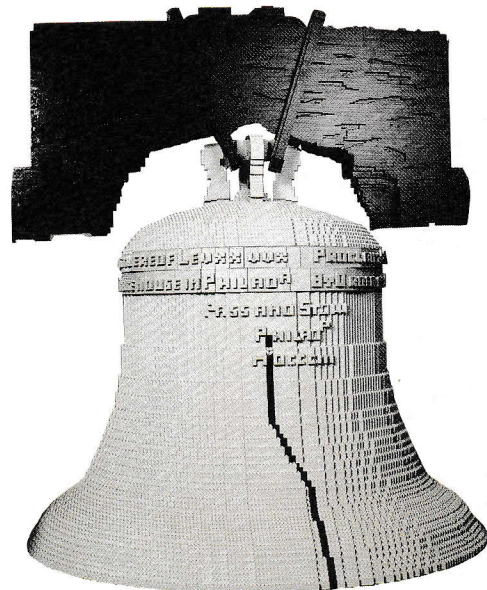
Written mostly by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration gave the reasons for forming the new nation. It said that all people have certain rights that can never be taken away—the rights to “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” When a government does not respect those rights, it is the duty of the people to change the government.

The crack in the Liberty Bell

When independence was proclaimed, there was rejoicing throughout America.

Up in the tower of the State House (now called Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, where Congress was meeting, a great bell began ringing. It became known as the Liberty Bell, and on every Fourth of July for many years it was rung to celebrate America’s independence. After many ringings the bell developed a crack, and so today it remains silent.

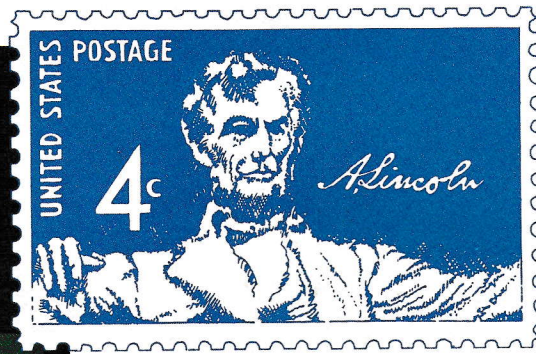
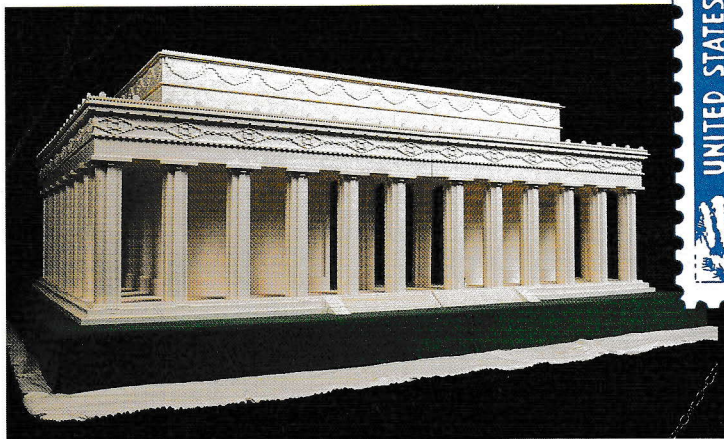
In 1976, our country’s 200th birthday, the Liberty Bell was moved from Independence Hall to nearby Liberty Bell Pavilion, where it can be seen today.



*On the Liberty Bell
are written the words:
"Proclaim Liberty
throughout all the Land . . ."*

*Independence Hall in
Philadelphia is the building
where United States'
independence was declared
over 200 years ago.*





Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865)

The Lincoln Memorial

Our nation's capital

Today, the capital of the United States is Washington, D.C.

Washington is actually the third capital that our country has had. Philadelphia was the first. Later, when George Washington was President, New York City was the capital. But the growing nation needed much more space for its government to work; so in the year 1800, the capital was moved to the brand new city of Washington, D.C., and it has been there ever since.

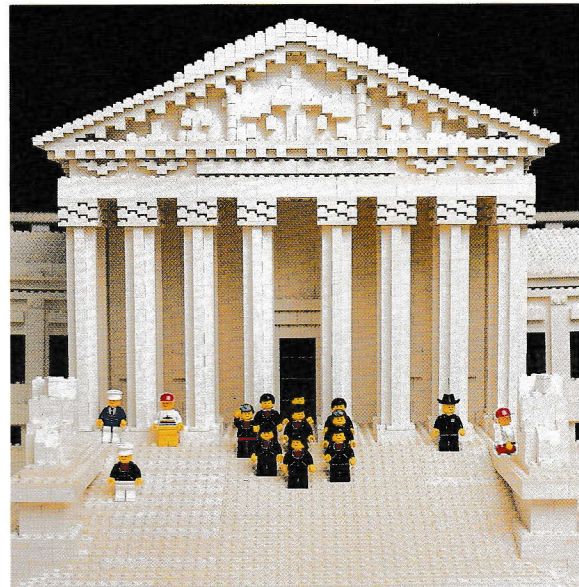
If you ever visit Washington, you will see some of America's most beautiful and famous buildings.

A government of the people

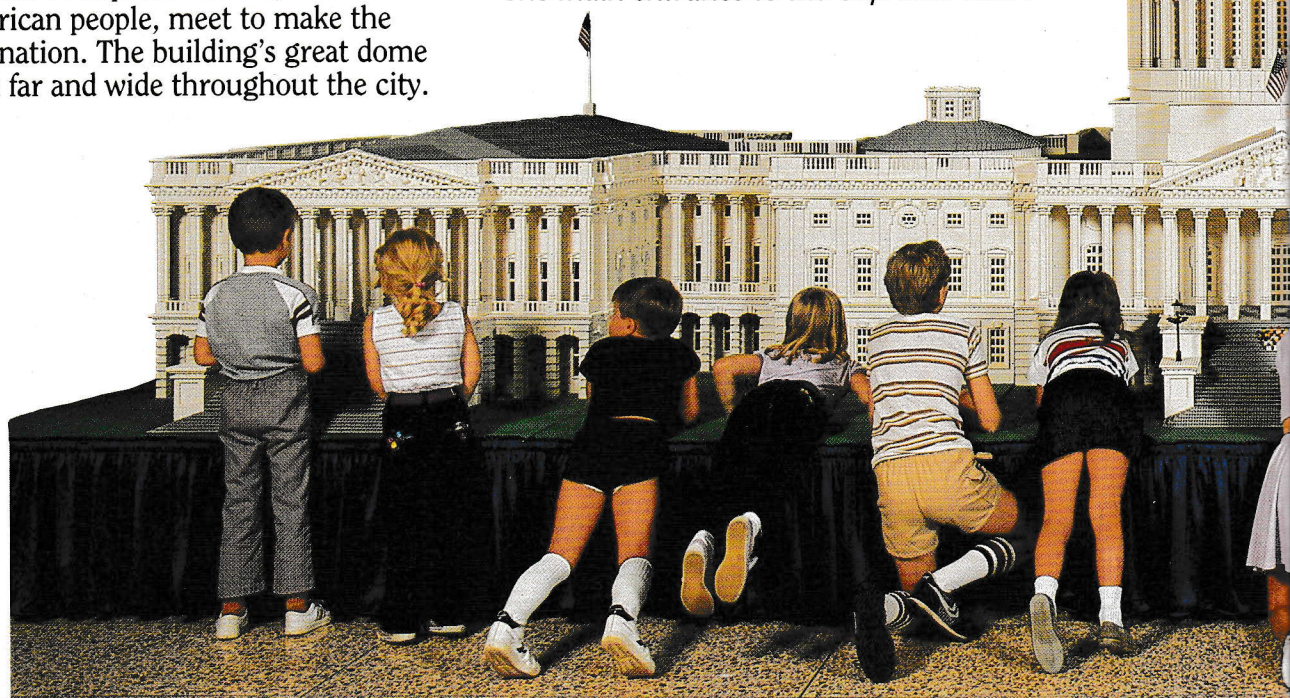
Three buildings in Washington mark America's three centers of government.

The huge Capitol building is headquarters for the Congress. Here the Senate and the House of Representatives, all elected by the American people, meet to make the laws of the nation. The building's great dome can be seen far and wide throughout the city.

Just east of the Capitol is the Supreme Court, where the nine black-robed justices make decisions on the highest matters of law. The White House, down at the other



The main entrance to the Supreme Court

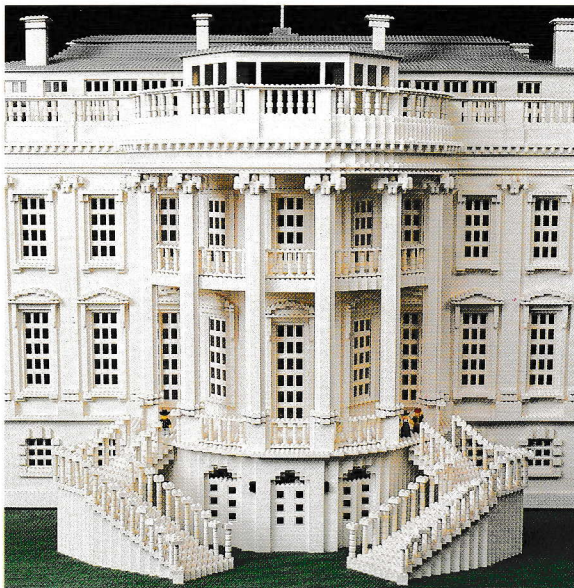


*Thomas Jefferson
(1743–1826)*



The Jefferson Memorial

end of Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol, is the home of the President. Elected by the people every four years, the President is the leader of the United States government.



The south door of the White House

Remembering our greatest presidents

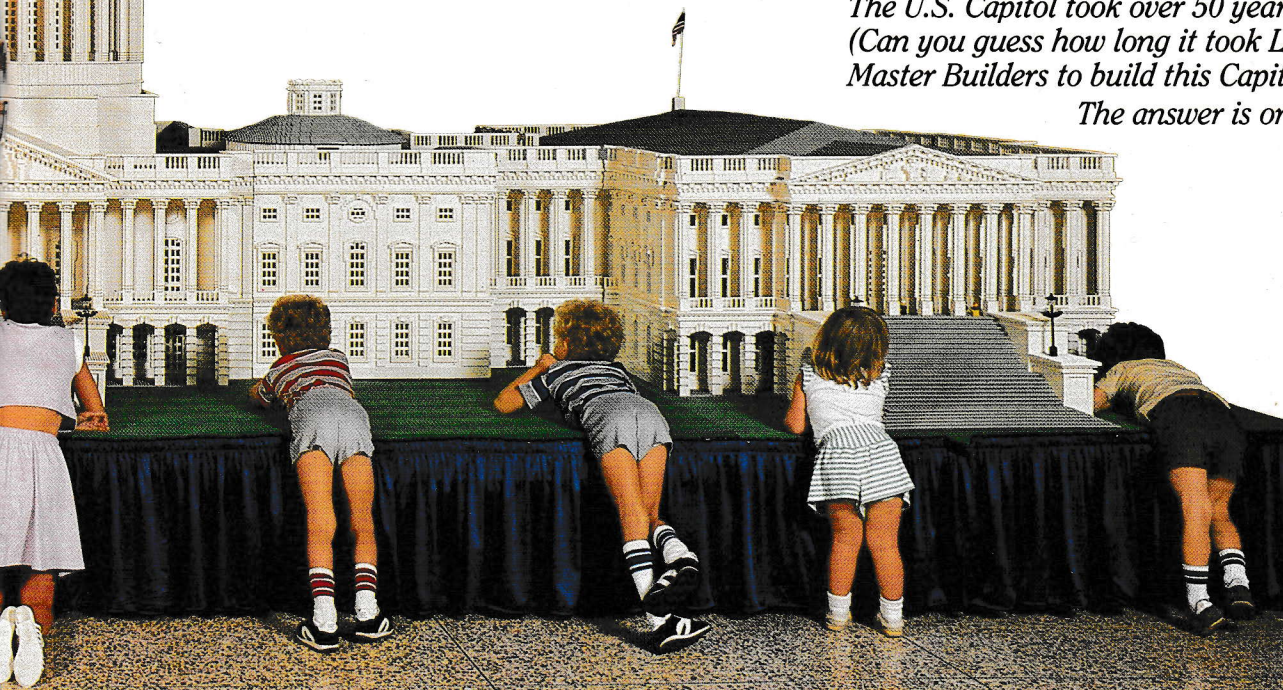
Just across a little lake surrounded by cherry trees is a tribute to our third President, the great thinker Thomas Jefferson. Inside, the standing figure of Jefferson appears to gaze past the Washington Monument toward the White House.

The Lincoln Memorial honors the sixteenth U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, who freed American slaves and kept the nation together during the Civil War. The great seated statue of Abraham Lincoln is a moving sight for all who visit the Memorial.

Washington is a city of wide avenues, green parkland, peaceful waterways, and great white government buildings. The city was designed in 1791 by Pierre L'Enfant.

*The U.S. Capitol took over 50 years to build.
(Can you guess how long it took LEGO®
Master Builders to build this Capitol model?)*

The answer is on page 11.)





The House that Mark Twain built . . .

Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, is one of America's most famous writers. His books, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, are classics.

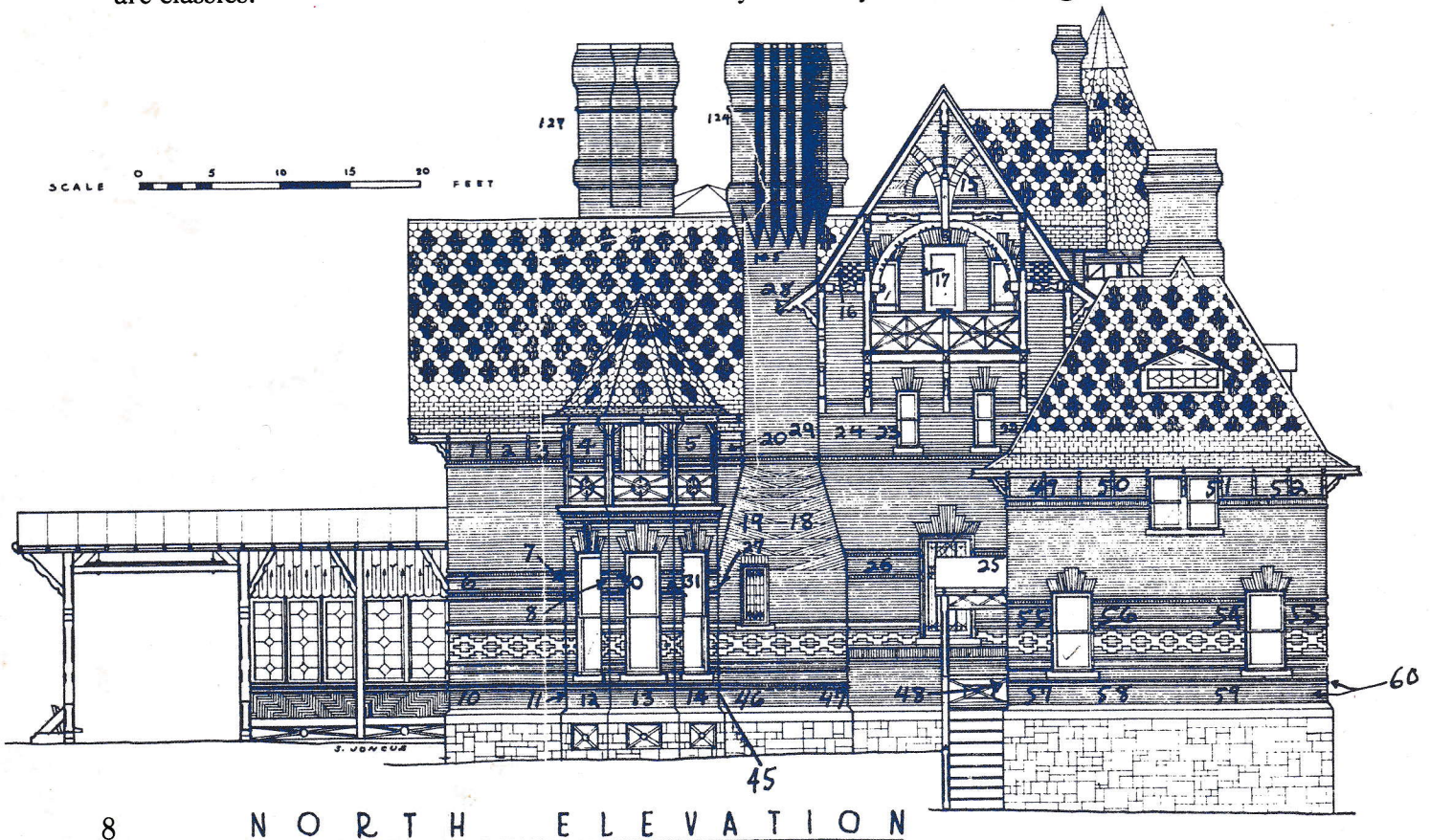
Sam was born in the village of Florida, Missouri on November 30, 1835, the same year Halley's comet visited our sky. He later moved to Hannibal, Missouri, a town right on the Mississippi River.

When he was 12 years old, Sam became an apprentice printer at a newspaper. But his true ambition was to be a riverboat pilot. After much training, he was licensed, and spent the next several years guiding paddlewheel steamboats up and down the Mississippi River from New Orleans to St. Louis.

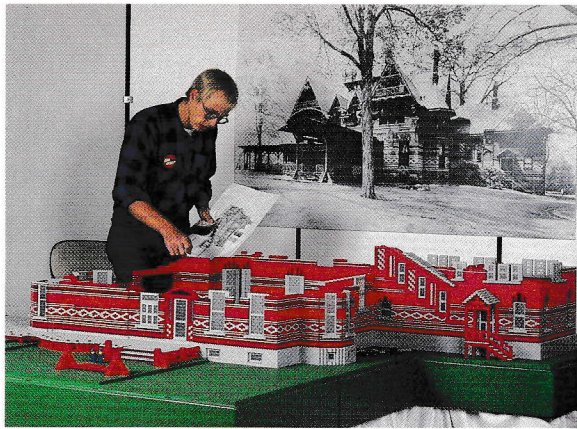
When the Civil War broke out, Samuel headed west with his brother to Nevada Territory (now the state of Nevada). There he worked as a silver miner and later as a newspaper reporter. It was here that he started writing and used the pen name of Mark Twain.

Samuel Clemens married and finally settled in Hartford, Connecticut to be near the company that published his books. He built a majestic house in a pleasant section of town called Nook Farm. On the next page is a replica of the house that Mark Twain built. It is made entirely of LEGO® building bricks.

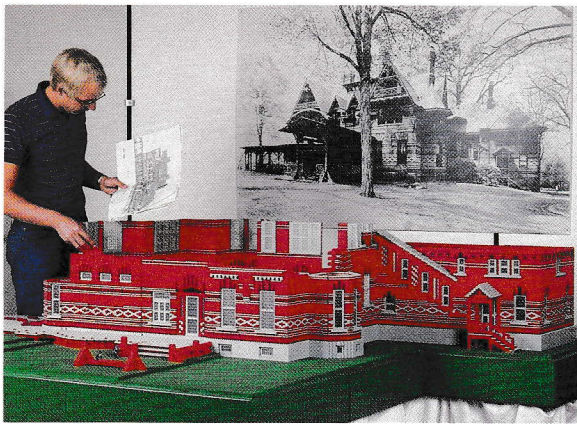
Mark Twain died in 1910, the same year Halley's comet once again returned.



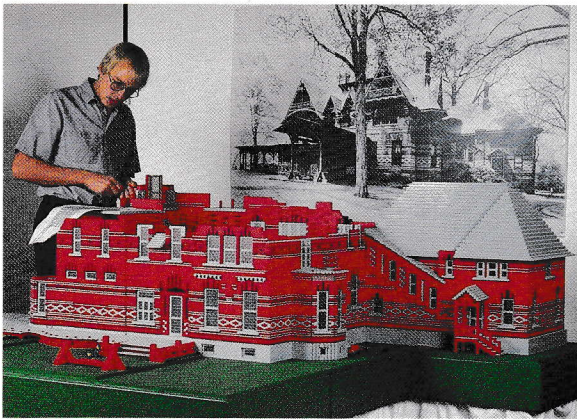
**People who build LEGO® exhibits are called LEGO® Master Builders.
Here's how they built Mark Twain's famous house with LEGO® building bricks.**



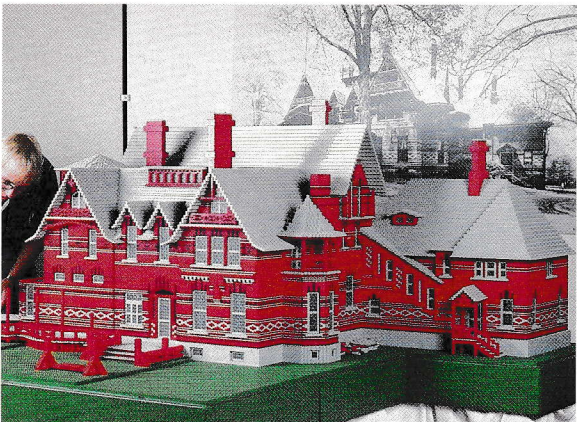
Before the Master Builder began work, he took photographs of the actual Mark Twain house in Hartford, Connecticut. Working from these photographs, the Master Builder drew a scale model of the building using special paper called "brick paper."



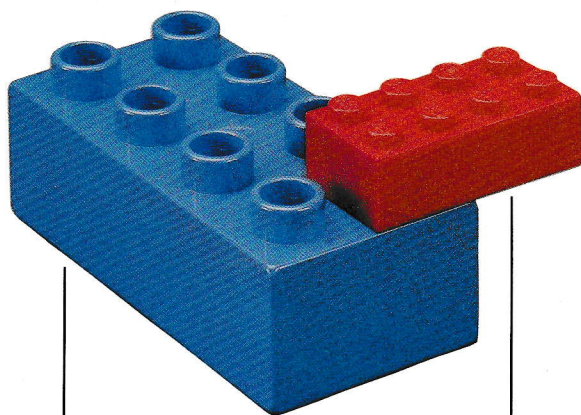
The outside walls and windows were carefully constructed with LEGO® building bricks. Special walls were built inside the building to support the roof.



After the roof was put on, the Master Builder made the finishing touches. Gutters, down spouts and a porch were added to make sure the model looked just like the original.



The model of Mark Twain's house was complete. Brick by brick the original model was glued together so it could be picked up and transported. It will be displayed with other models in the Americana Show which will be exhibited around the country.



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Ages 6-12



Technic

Ages 7-14

Answers: Page 3-17, 780 bricks. Page 4-Thomas Jefferson is the tall, redheaded man standing before the table, holding the document. Benjamin Franklin is to his left. Page 8-Eight and one-half months.



We enjoyed sharing the fun and excitement of this LEGO® Model Show with your family.

The LEGO Group takes great pride in DUPLO® and LEGO® brand toys and if we can be of service to you regarding our products please write to us.

Thank you,

*Susan Williams
LEGO Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 938
Enfield, CT 06082*